

From: DickW
To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Microsoft Steals and Bundles

Renata Hesse, trial attorney
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Dear Attorney Hesse,

Since 1983 I have made my living with computers and have purchased them, installed software, set up and configured local area networks, and programmed several applications using a certain database software.

Over the years it became evident that Microsoft does not innovate. Instead, it waits until somebody else develops a market for a new software or software concept. Then, Microsoft uses its monopoly power to crush this start up company and includes the intellectual property of this crushed company in its next version of DOS or Windows, etc., as an "innovation."

Microsoft inhibits free trade and freedom to innovate and preys on new startup companies to force them out of business or forces them to sell out cheaply. Microsoft is a detriment to our supposedly free society. Remember DOS 6.0? Microsoft was caught with its hand in the cookie jar and was forced to remove all copies of DOS 6.0 from dealer shelves. It had been found to have stolen the code for a new software concept from the company that originally produced it. A revised DOS 6.2 came out 3 months later after the legal proceedings against Microsoft had run their course. Microsoft is a thief!

Another example of Microsoft's perfidy is the manner in which it "sucked the air" out of Netscape by stealing the look and feel of Netscape and then forcing the code for the Microsoft version of its browser into what should have been just an operating system. Microsoft used its monopoly position to crush what it saw as a competitor. Now, most users are not allowed to choose their own browser and the Microsoft Internet Explorer and its Outlook Express software have become a playground for hackers throughout the world. Time and again users of Outlook Express are required to download another "fix" to protect themselves from viruses and worms. This is mostly because of the sloppy programming practices of Microsoft and the manner in which what should have been an ancillary program such as a browser, was forced to become part of the operating system.

Frankly, I fear for the safety of my country. Many parts of our

government are becoming increasingly dependent on Microsoft software. Millions of computer hackers throughout the world are set on damaging Microsoft, because they hate this company, and with good reason it seems. We put many parts of our government at peril because Microsoft has intertwined too many parts of its software into what should have been just an operating system. This is poor programming practice and leaves too many computer systems open to nefarious intrusion.

So, the safety of our country, the freedom of consumer choice, the damages I have incurred by being forced to purchase unwanted software, are just some of the reasons I hope much needed controls will be placed on Microsoft. It is a monopoly that is running amuck.

Unfortunately, too many consumers don't understand enough about computer software and they think they are getting something "free" when the browser is mixed into the operating system. This is not the American way. Microsoft is inhibiting the progress of computer software, is destroying initiative amongst independent programmers, has constricted my freedom of choice and has forced me to purchase software I don't want to use.

I want you to force Microsoft to conform to the demands of the various state Attorneys General still holding forth their suits against Microsoft. I don't want what many see as a Bush DOJ "sellout" to Microsoft to rule my life. I am a citizen, I am a computer professional, my opinion should be considered.

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